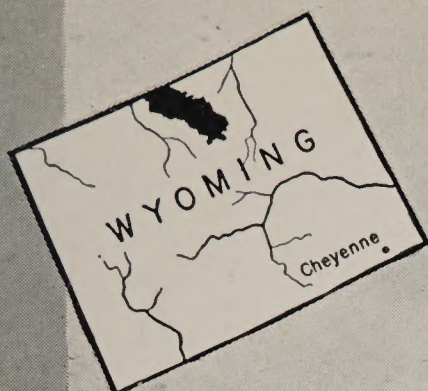


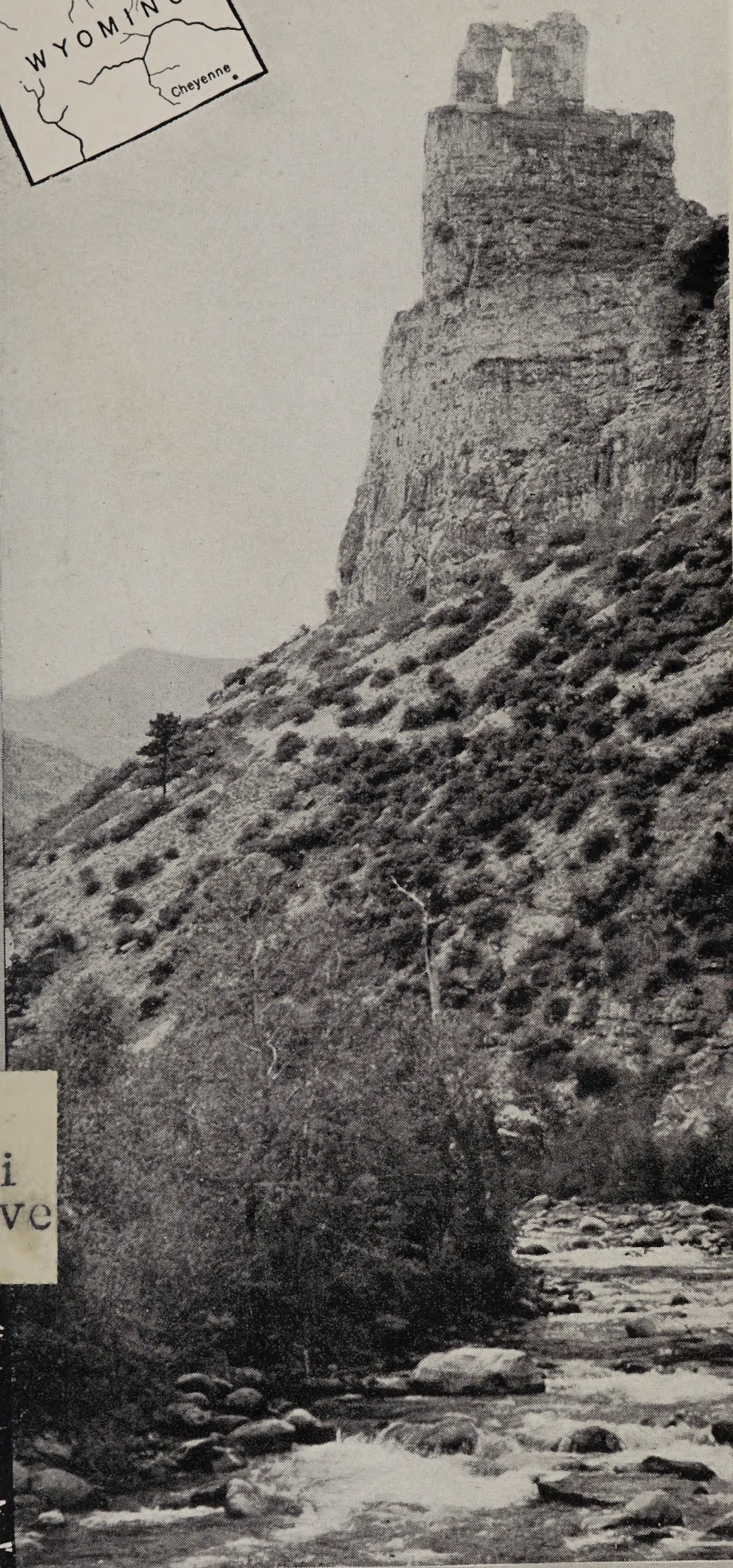
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National Forest

U. S. Department of Agriculture

U. S. Forest Service

Rocky Mountain Region

MF-7-R. 2

Issued 1940

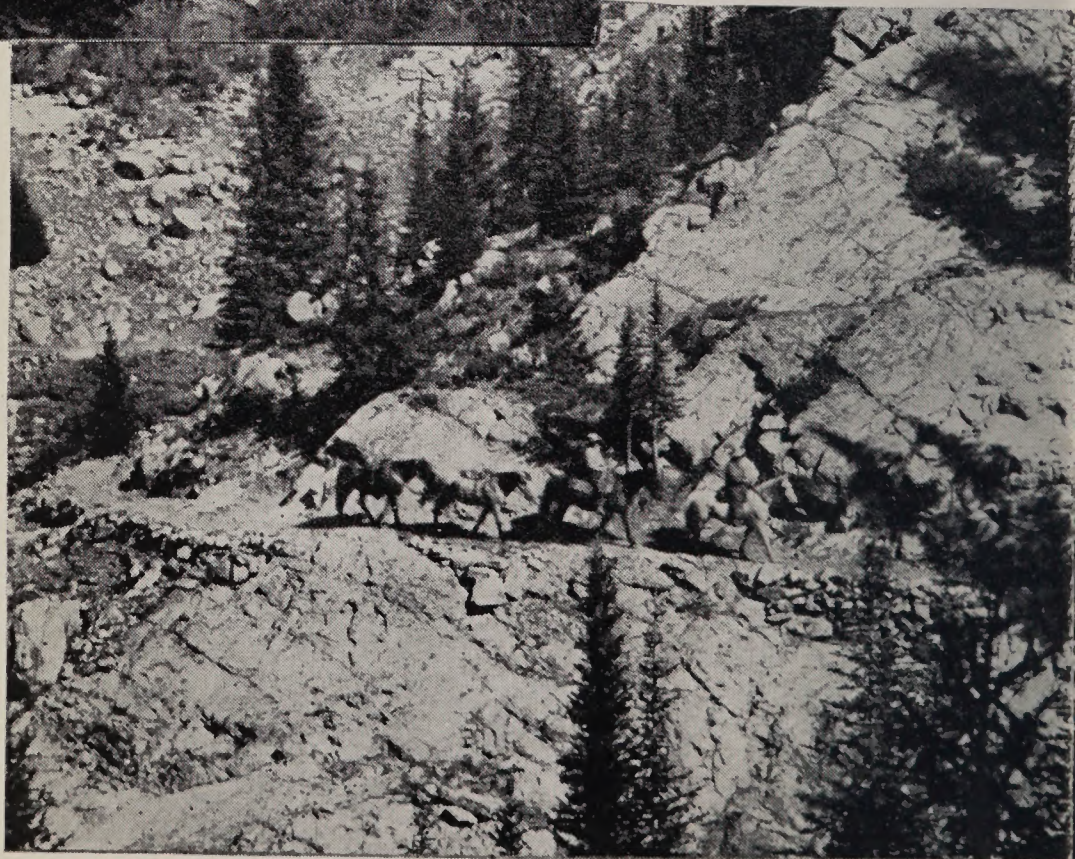
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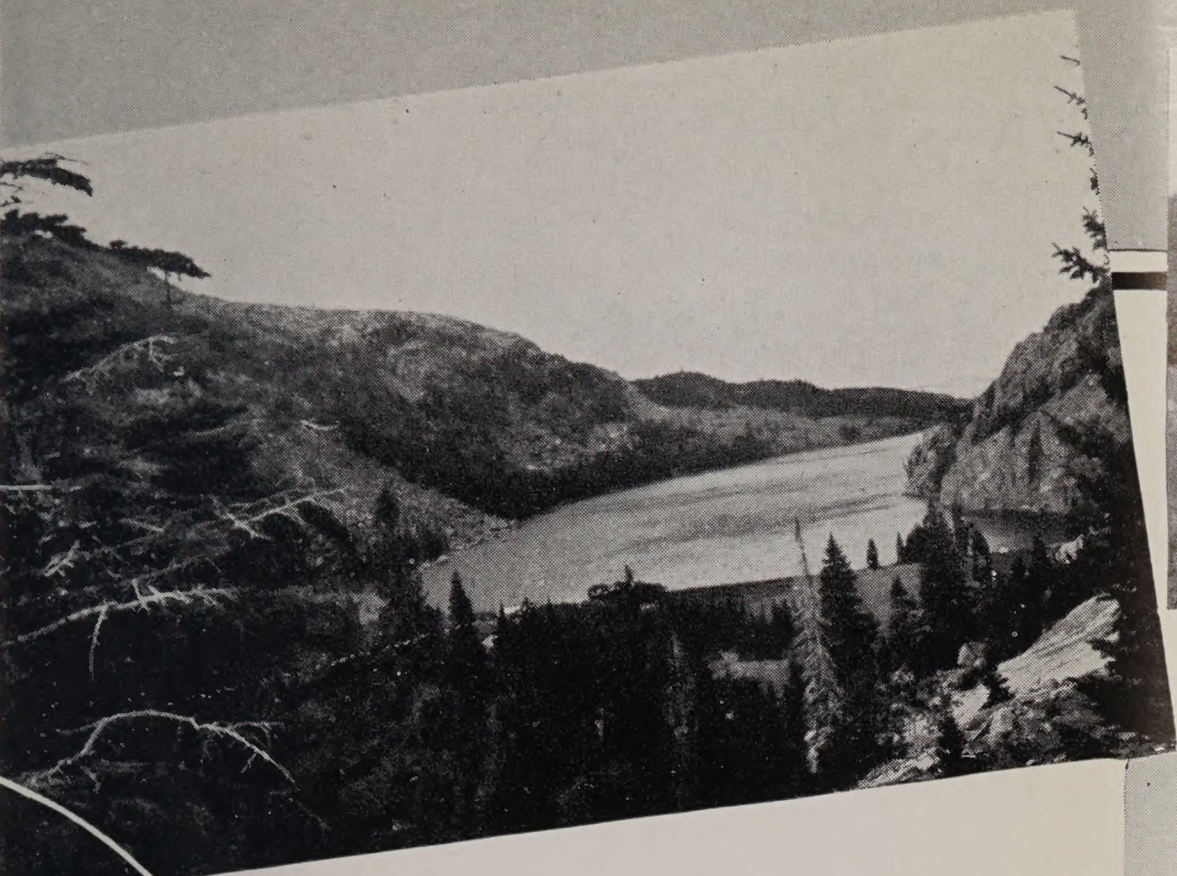
Ancient medicine wheel in the Bighorn National Forest.



Bighorn sheep in their natural



B. E. S. OCT 27 1941



View of Lake Solitude.



Left.—Rocky Mountain canaries at a Bighorn dude ranch.

Environment.



Young lodgepole pine stand after thinning.

Right.—Campground built for public convenience.

Left—Solitude Circle Trail into the wilderness area.



Beef in the making.



Part of the Bighorn lamb-chop factory.



Recreation—T

THE Bighorn Forest is well-supplied with resources—timber, forage, water, wildlife—all of which play their part in a multiple-use system of management. In addition, it is a beautiful country of mountains, meadows, lakes, and streams which lure tourists in ever-increasing numbers. It provides many types of recreation, including picnicking, camping, fishing, hunting, winter sports, pack trips into the wilderness country, and mountain climbing.

Recreation Facilities.—The natural attractiveness and resources of the forest have been augmented by many improvements constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps since 1933. A dam on Ten Sleep Creek has converted Ten Sleep Meadows into a lake, 281 acres in size, which offers boating, bathing, fishing, and skating, and adds aesthetic charm to that section of the forest tributary to U S 16.

Another dam on Prune Creek, adjacent to U S 14, has formed a 34-acre lake, named Sibley, in honor of Lieut. F. W. Sibley, Indian campaigner in General Crook's command, who, in July 1876, successfully led a reconnoitering party of 25 picked men from Troop A, 2d Cavalry, through this Indian-infested country without the loss of a man.

Camp and Picnic Grounds.—Thousands of visitors enjoy the vacation land of the Bighorn Forest each year. Most of these people come from the adjoining country, but many come from the Eastern and Central States. For the convenience of these people, 34 campgrounds have been developed at attractive and convenient locations adjacent to the highways. Several others have been planned for future development if there is need for them.

Along the Buffalo-Ten Sleep Highway (U S 16) are the Leigh Creek and Boulder Park campgrounds, the Granite Point picnic ground, and the Meadows Lake recreation area. Along the West Ten Sleep Road, which is a forest road off U S 16, are the campgrounds at Island Park, Deer Park, Zipe Park, and West Lake.

Near U S 16, east of the Divide, the Crazy Woman and South Fork campgrounds, and the Sourdough picnic ground are accessible to the traveler. In the southeast corner of the forest, adjacent to the Muddy Creek forest road, is the Lower Doyle camp site.

The Five Springs, Twin Buttes, and Bald Mountain campgrounds are adjacent to the Dayton-Kane Highway on the west side of the Big Horns. Along the Sheep Mountain forest road, near the ranger station on Porcupine Creek, is a campground of the same name.

The Upper South Fork, South Fork, and North Fork picnic grounds, and the Burgess camp site are located along U S 14 in the general vicinity of the Burgess Ranger Station.

Pleasant camp sites adjacent to U S 14 are located at Owen, Post, and Granite Creeks. The East Woodrock campground on the Woodrock forest road and the Shell campground on the forest road toward the Shell Ranger Station are favorable sites off the highway.

Adjacent to the road which extends into the Big Goose Creek area from the village of Big Horn, are the East Fork and Ranger Creek campgrounds. The Cross Creek, Little Goose, and other attractive camp sites are located in this vicinity. Ask the forest ranger for more detailed information.

Four campgrounds have been improved along the Solitude Trail—the Lake Solitude near the lake of that name, the Lake Geneva on Big Goose Creek, and the Medicine Cabin and Medicine Park grounds on the upper reaches of North Clear Creek.

No charge is made for the use of these campgrounds, but tourists are requested to keep them clean and sanitary and to put out their campfires before leaving. People are using the water in the streams constantly, and care is necessary to keep the water supply pure. For your own safety, as well as that of others, follow the rules for health and fire protection given in this folder.

Resorts and Camps.—Eighteen resorts, operating on the forest under permit, furnish accommodations to the public. Most of these have horses and pack outfits which enable them to take visitors into the high country.

Timber—Forage—Wild

The Boy Scouts, the Johnson County Young People, and several fraternal and religious organizations have permanent camps. A few local people who desire a more permanent type of summer residence maintain permitted summer homes on the forest. Summer-home permits are issued where there is definitely no possibility of conflict with uses that will serve a higher purpose or a greater number of people.

Dude Ranches.—The dude ranch originated in Wyoming and has probably reached its optimum development in that State, Montana, and other Western States. These resorts aim especially to acquaint people with western outdoor life and methods of transportation common since the settlement of the West. On the Bighorn, as on other national forests, they specialize in pack trips into the scenic mountain country and the more inaccessible sections, but horseback trips of any length or duration may be arranged.

A Dude Ranchers' Association has been organized, with over 100 active members, for the purpose of developing this type of resort business and maintaining high standards. A recent report states that guests at 98 of these ranches spent about \$2,200,000 during the 1938 season. Rodeos, hunting, fishing or pack trips, or rest in a carefree atmosphere are some of the attractions offered by the dude ranches and like resorts in the Bighorn and other national forests.

A Wilderness.—The Cloud Peak Wilderness Area, located in the most rugged portion of the Big Horn Range, was given this designation by the Chief of the Forest Service on March 5, 1932. Wilderness areas are set aside to preserve unique natural values. Here all lovers of nature can live and travel as the pioneers did. They can ride, hunt, or fish, rest, relax, or enjoy the aesthetic beauties of the wilderness without intrusion from motor, plane, locomotive, or any of the (at times) discordant features of modern civilization. Whatever the desire for pleasurable outdoor life, the ultimate is possible in the land of the Big Horns.

Further study of this area has indicated that the first designation of 92,000 acres can be materially increased by the addition of adjacent land of the same scenic and wilderness charm. The proposed Bighorn Wilderness extends north and south along the principal divide of the Big Horn Mountain Range for approximately 27 miles. It contains slightly more than 159,000 acres of the most rugged part of these mountains, whose scenic attractions, glacial lakes and moraines, and turbulent streams will be preserved for future generations to enjoy, as they were when Lewis and Clark, John Colter, and other notable explorers first wrote their accounts of the western country.

During the ice age, the Big Horns were deeply scarred and eroded by glaciers which left many rock-ribbed canyons and hundreds of lakes. The glaciers, the high peaks—Cloud (13,165 feet) and Black Tooth (13,014 feet)—and their immediate environs offer perfect wilderness conditions. Their tangible and aesthetic values combined make it an area unsurpassed in grandeur and charm.

The whole area lies at high elevations—from 8,500 to 13,165 feet. Beautiful panoramas of the surrounding terrain are obtained from Cloud and other peaks, whose precipitous slopes drop into deep canyons or more gently descend by boulder-strewn ridges. Numerous small glacier-formed lakes are visible in either direction east or west of the Divide.

Future uses of the area will not differ materially from those of the present time. These are recreational, the grazing of domestic stock, and limited water storage. There will be no private or semi-public use, such as cabins or resorts. No recreational facilities will be installed except those of simple rustic design, necessary for sanitation.

Plans for protection and administration development include the present trail system of 104 miles, which may be increased to a maximum of 150 miles, and the construction of lookout towers, if ever they are deemed necessary. The present Solitude-Circle Trail, 62 miles in length, affords a perfect pack trip into the wilderness. It may be approached by any one of 12 feeder trails which extend from roads outside the area on either side of the Divide.

er—Wildlife

Fish and Wildlife.—Nearly all of the streams and lakes within the Bighorn National Forest furnish excellent sport to the angler. These waters are stocked with native, rainbow, Loch Leven, eastern brook, and Mackinaw trout by the Wyoming Fish and Game Department, in cooperation with the Forest Service and local sportsmen's clubs. An effort to introduce new species is being made, and California golden trout has been planted in Crystal Lake, Lake Christine, and a few others. Willow Lake has been stocked with grayling. It is possible to drive to many miles of streams and several lakes, and many more are within reasonable walking distance from the points where automobile travel necessarily ends.

Game animals are abundant. The most recent estimate made by forest rangers shows 14,250 deer, 5,000 elk, 110 mountain sheep, and 320 black and brown bears. In addition, there are numerous coyotes, bobcats, foxes, mink, martin, beaver, and other fur-bearers, as well as blue and willow grouse and sage hens. Ducks cross the forest in large numbers during the season of migration.

The Bighorn National Forest is one of the best big-game areas in the State. In the fall of 1938, 591 elk and 1,285 deer were legally killed by hunters on the forest. This represented about 10 percent of the total kill of elk and 38 percent of the total kill of deer for the entire State. The number of animals taken on the Bighorn Forest during the 1938 hunting season was about 12 percent of the estimated herd of elk and 9 percent of the herd of deer on the forest. Of the national forests east of the Continental Divide in Wyoming, the Bighorn Forest, per square mile, supports the largest number of domestic stock, and during the 1938 hunting season produced the greatest number of game animals.

The Forest Service objective in wildlife management is to secure the greatest production for the purpose of recreation and sport consistent with other resource uses and values. The concentration of game animals on the Bighorn is commensurate with available forage. There is no conflict with other uses; the deer and elk add to the aesthetic charm of the forest landscape, and a reasonable portion of the increase is taken by sportsmen during the hunting season.

Deer are often seen along the roads and sometimes stand long enough to have their pictures taken. Elk range farther away from man-made improvements and habitations, but are seen by many horseback parties.

Few people are disappointed with the hunting and fishing on the forest. Sportsmen are urged to observe the bag limits and to cooperate with the State game wardens and forest officers to prevent game law violations.

The Forest Harvest.—An important resource of the Bighorn Forest is its merchantable timber, estimated to comprise a volume of 1,366,000,000 board feet. Of this, 55 percent is lodgepole pine, 27 percent is Engelmann spruce, and the rest is composed of Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, limber pine, and alpine fir. Lodgepole pine is the most important species locally and is put to a variety of uses. It furnishes railroad ties, mine ties, props, posts, poles, and fuel wood in considerable quantities, in addition to common lumber.

Approximately 1,890,000 board feet of mature timber are cut and sold each year from the Bighorn Forest. In the harvest of timber, careful management plans are made by experienced foresters. Timber stands that are mature are appraised, advertised, and sold to the highest bidder. Forest officers mark the live trees that are to be removed. This insures the removal of the mature trees and the leaving of a good thrifty stand of young timber for future growth. Such selective cutting removes from 50 to 75 percent of the volume of virgin stands and makes possible another cutting from the same area in 60 to 80 years. The timber cut is offset by tree growth between harvests, which insures perpetual cropping.

Returns from timber sales, grazing permits, and other special uses of the forest, are paid into the National treasury. Twenty-five percent of this money is then returned to the counties in which the national forest is located, in lieu of taxes, to be used for either school or road purposes. An additional 10 percent of receipts is made available to the Forest Service for the construction and maintenance of roads and trails.

Location—Color

THE Bighorn National Forest, created by proclamation of President Cleveland on February 22, 1897, is located in north-central Wyoming, in the heart of the Big Horn Mountains. This range is east of the Continental Divide, and, rising abruptly out of the Great Plains, extends from southern Montana south through north-central Wyoming. This forest is the only one in northern Wyoming between the Black Hills and the Rocky Mountains, and is drained by the Big Horn, Tongue, and Powder Rivers, all tributaries of the Yellowstone River, which is part of the Missouri River system. The forest is about 80 miles long by 30 miles wide, and on June 30, 1938, contained 1,121,534 acres, of which all but 7,705 acres were Government land.

The Forest Name.—Lewis and Clark in their memorable expedition of 1805–6 saw large numbers of game animals, and Rocky Mountain sheep, or “bighorns,” as they were called because of the size of their horns, were abundant. The report of these explorers mentioned that thousands of these animals were seen near the mouth of the Big Horn River, and that it was the abundance of the sheep that gave the river its name. The Big Horn Mountain Range also received its name from the Indians for the same reason, and the same name was fittingly applied to the national forest which includes a large portion of this range.

Indians' Hunting Ground.—Before the settlement of the white man, the Sioux, Crow, and Cheyenne Indian Tribes lived and hunted in and around the Big Horn Mountains. These Indians resented the intrusion of the white man into their bountiful region, and in the environs of the present Bighorn National Forest many bloody battles were fought during the Indian campaigns. Near its boundaries General Custer and his command were completely exterminated by the Sioux in 1876, in the memorable battle of the Little Big Horn. On Piney Creek the ruins of old Fort Phil Kearney are now being restored. Near here, in December 1866, Captain Fetterman and his command of 81 soldiers were ambushed and slain by Red Cloud and his Ogallala Sioux. It was from this fort that John (“Portugee”) Phillips made his heroic ride of 236 miles in the dead of winter through Indian-infested country to bring relief from Fort Laramie

Below.—Near Powder River Pass.



ul History—Roads

to the beleaguered post. Farther south, on the Red Fork of Powder River, Dull Knife, with his Cheyenne warriors, made his historic last stand against the whites, suffering a crushing defeat at the hands of the United States troops under the command of General MacKenzie.

The Medicine Wheel.—In the religious life of the Indians, the Big Horn peaks were objects of veneration. Back into those solitudes they went on journeys to make or find their "medicine." On Medicine Mountain is the "Medicine Wheel," which was built so long ago that even legendary history is lacking.

This curious prehistoric relic is located on the north side of Medicine Mountain. It is constructed of stones laid side by side, forming an almost perfect circle 70 feet in diameter. Around the rim of the wheel there are six small cairns, or monuments, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet high. These monuments, when the wheel was first discovered by white men, were built up on three sides and the other side left open, after the fashion of an armchair. Five of them had the open side facing toward the center of the wheel, and the sixth, which is the one on the east, had the open side facing outward toward the rising sun.

In the center of the wheel is a hub, 12 feet in diameter, and around the outer edge is a circular wall $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick. This leaves an opening in the center 7 feet in diameter. This was used for some sacred purpose, but nothing can be found regarding the ceremonies performed within this structure. There are 28 spokes leading from the hub, or center monument, to the outer rim of the wheel. On the outside of the wheel, at distances of from 70 to 275 feet, other monuments are found, all built upon high points.

This mysterious structure is ages old. The Crow Indians say that when they came the wheel was there. The old men of the tribes say they do not know who built it. Parts of the structure have fallen down or have been torn down by persons who have visited the spot. Some years ago the Forest Service constructed a rock wall around the wheel in an endeavor to preserve it, but this proved inadequate and the rock wall has been replaced by a stout wire fence. A good forest road extends from State Highway 520 to within a short distance of the site.

Roads Into the Bighorn.—Two east-west highways, which are main arteries of travel between the Black Hills and Yellowstone National Park, cross the forest. The Buffalo-Ten Sleep Road (U S 16) crosses the southern portion of the forest and connects at its eastern terminus at Buffalo with U S 87, and at its western terminus, near Worland, with U S 20. From an elevation of 4,645 feet above sea level at Buffalo, the road ascends Clear Creek Canyon on easy grades through mountain meadows and heavy stands of lodgepole pine timber to Muddy Pass, 9,666 feet in elevation. Then it crosses high, rolling hills at the head of famous Powder River, passes Ten Sleep Lake, and descends through Ten Sleep Canyon to an elevation of 4,200 feet at the village of Ten Sleep.

The northern route (U S 14) through Sheridan leaves U S 87 at Ranchester, Wyo., and after passing through Dayton, at an elevation of about 3,900 feet, ascends the steep face of the Big Horn Mountains, past scenic Steamboat Rock, to an elevation of about 8,200 feet, and crosses the Big

Ask the Forest Officers

The Bighorn National Forest is divided into six districts, each of which is administered by a ranger, under the general direction of the forest supervisor. The rangers live at stations within the forest during the summer months and at the headquarters towns in the winter. They are busy with timber sales, range management, and various duties most of the time, but may be consulted at almost any time by prearrangement. Information may be secured from any of these forest officers at the addresses given below.

Forest Supervisor, U. S. Forest Service, Sheridan, Wyo.

Forest Ranger, Buffalo District, Buffalo, Wyo.

Forest Ranger, Goose District, Big Horn, Wyo.

Forest Ranger, Paintrock District, Greybull, Wyo.

Forest Ranger, Porcupine District, Lovell, Wyo.

Forest Ranger, Ten Sleep District, Ten Sleep, Wyo.

Forest Ranger, Tongue District, Dayton, Wyo.

Horn Range at Granite Pass. It then descends through Shell Creek Canyon and past the village of Shell to a junction with U S 20 at Greybull.

A third route (State Highway 520) branches off U S 14 at Burgess Junction, crosses the Big Horn Range near Bald Mountain at an elevation of about 10,000 feet, and descends by a series of winding switchbacks to an elevation of less than 4,000 feet at the Big Horn River near Kane. It continues to a junction with U S 310 at Lovell. This route affords a magnificent view of the Big Horn Mountains, the Big Horn Basin to the west, and the historic Indian country to the east.

About one-half of all the people who enter or leave Yellowstone National Park over the Cody-Yellowstone Highway (U S 20) through the Shoshone National Forest also cross the Bighorn National Forest.

From these main traveled ways there are many old roads leading into less-accessible regions. An excellent system of trails is available for the use of those who care to visit the least-accessible areas on horseback.

Below.—Tyrrell Ranger Station, Ten Sleep, named in honor of Junior Forester Paul E. Tyrrell, technical foreman at Ten Sleep CCC Camp F-35, who died as a result of burns suffered in the Blackwater Fire, Shoshone National Forest, Aug. 21, 1937.



Green Forests Are a Valuable Resource

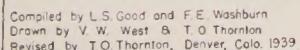
Rules for Preventing Fires

1. *Matches*.—Be sure your match is out. Break it in two before you throw it away.
2. *Tobacco*.—Be sure that pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stubs are dead before throwing them away. Never throw them into brush, leaves, or needles. Don't smoke while traveling through the woods.
3. *Making Camp*.—Before building a fire, scrape away all inflammable material from a spot 5 feet in diameter. Dig a hole in the center and in it build your campfire. Keep your fire small and never build it against trees or logs or near brush.
4. *Breaking Camp*.—Never break camp until your fire is OUT—DEAD OUT.
5. *Bonfires*.—Never burn slash or brush in windy weather or while there is the slightest danger that the fire will get away.
6. *How To Put Out a Campfire*.—Stir the coals while soaking them with water. Turn small sticks and drench both sides. Wet the ground around the fire; be sure the last spark is dead.

Rules for Health Protection

1. *Purification*.—Mountain streams will not purify themselves in a few hundred feet. Boil or chlorinate all suspected water.
2. *Garbage*.—Burn or bury all garbage, papers, tin cans, and old clothes.
3. *Excretions*.—Use public toilets where available. They are properly located. Where not available, human excreta should be buried at least 200 feet from streams, lakes, or springs.
4. *Washing*.—Do not wash soiled clothing, utensils, or bodies in streams, lakes, or springs. Use a container and throw dirty water on the ground away from water supply.
5. *Obeying Laws*.—Observe rules and endeavor to have others do the same. Report all violations and insanitary conditions (including dead animals) to nearest health officer or forest officer.

Burned Forests Are a Liability



Narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*).—Usually a tall tree, 40 to 60 feet high. Bark light yellow-green, divided near the base of old trees into flat ridges; smooth and thinner above. Leaves $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch wide, by 2 or 3 inches long; very similar to willow leaves. Usually found along streams at lower elevations.

